

## UNIFIL kills two guerrillas

TYRE, Lebanon (AP) — Security sources in South Lebanon said a Norwegian peacekeeping force Wednesday killed two PLO guerrillas near Israel's self-declared "security zone." They said the bulk, part of the United Nations Interim Force in Lebanon (UNIFIL), opened fire on the guerrillas who were trying to hide weapons in UNIFIL-occupied territories in South Lebanon near the Israeli border. There was an immediate confirmation from UNIFIL whose spokesman was unavailable. On Monday, two U.N. soldiers were killed and six wounded by pro-Libanese militiamen of the South Lebanon Army (SLA) in South Lebanon. Sources in the "Lebanese resistance" said the shooting took place in the village of Hadatia, which has since been policed by the Norwegian unit. They said their guerrillas had clashed with an Israeli force in Hadatia, wounded two, before the peacekeeping force shot at them for hiding their weapons. "It was a dispute over hiding weapons to U.N. areas," said one security source.

AN being prepared up and shot down after her son died in her arms as part of her rites, the Ory said. "There are two to have been a and her family dead," said the Ory, "but said the he died in Cyprus." The Ory, who is northwest of Yasser Arafat and Wednesday with Libyan leader Muammar Qaddafi to discuss their concerns over the recent — A Chinese couple of Jewish immigrants from who tried to immigrate to Israel. Arafat's 15-month-old son, a member of all Arab states, the was a Libyan news agency JANA reported after the meeting in Ben-Gurion, Los Angeles and said, "The purpose of my court judge Robert the evolution of the Palestinian there was no question and, in particular, of the to convert the immigration of Jews into user on the change-up Palestinian which represents not only a danger for the older died March Palestinian people but also for all following: 'Arab states,' Arafat told us. Under state reporters. Also in Tunis, the required to pay League Secretary-General needs of their Kibbi met Wednesday with food, clothing, S. Ambassador Robert Peeler. A 176-leader to discuss the same issue.

Christian Schools fight at children during South Lebanon

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OMPEI, Italy — Archaeologists have clamped a parable statue of Kosovo.

ion of mount Vraca.

GRADE (R) — Yugoslav

small state, which is riding a riot-torn Kosovo province

saturday afternoon as troops fanned out

to help quell ethnic Albanian

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Bashir ends visit to Cairo

## Sudan says Israel, Cuba give military assistance to rebels

CAIRO (AP) — Sudan's military ruler said Tuesday that Israel and Cuba are giving military aid to southern Sudanese rebels and that Israeli experts have been battlefield casualties.

Israeli and rebel spokesmen disclaimed knowledge of any Israeli presence with the rebels. Lt.-Gen. Omar Hassan Al Bashir, who chairs the military junta ruling Sudan since a coup last June 30, spoke at a news conference at the end of an official visit, his third as head of state.

"We have definite proof of the presence of Israeli experts at rebel centres for training and operational planning and of military support reaching the (rebel) movement from Israel," he said.

He said his government has "information that there have been human losses among Israelis in some battle areas."

The Sudanese leader gave no details. But his main field commander in the south was quoted Tuesday as saying that three Israeli experts were reported wounded in fighting in the Equatoria region.

## Iran accused of burying riot victims

BAGHDAD (R) — Iran's main opposition group said Wednesday Iranian authorities had secretly buried a number of people killed in rioting in Tehran.

The Iraq-based Mujahedeen Khalq quoted witnesses in Tehran as saying at least 10 people killed in riots in the Iranian capital last Friday were buried in unmarked graves at the Behesht E Zahra Cemetery.

The Mujahedeen, in a telex to Reuters, said security forces in Tehran were still on alert for any new outbreak of violence.

Iranian newspapers Sunday said "opportunist" had joined a football riot Friday outside Tehran's Shiroudi Stadium.

Police said the disturbance was sparked by the last-minute cancellation of a game because of

Equatoria is one of three southern regions wracked by civil war since renegade army Col. John Garang's Sudan People's Liberation Army (SPLA) launched operations against the Muslim-dominated government in 1983. The rebellion was to press demands for autonomy and economic reforms in the south, inhabited mostly by Christians or animists of African descent.

Maj.-Gen. Nasseruddin Suliman, the government's military commander in Equatoria, told the Sudanese newspaper Al Injaz Al Watany that his command had received a report saying three Israeli experts were wounded in a mine explosion while inspecting a rebel camp in Equatoria.

In Israel, Defense Ministry spokesman Dan Weinreich said: "I don't know about such an accident, and I don't know about Israelis in southern Sudan."

In Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, a spokesman for the SPLA, Lam

Akol, said: "There has not been a single Israeli that has gone to the south or near the border" between Ethiopia and Sudan.

Akol said the rebel command has not contemplated or anticipated any form of assistance from Israel" and charged that Sudanese government claims of involvement by the Jewish state were to "isolate us from the Arab World."

In his news conference, Bashir said the SPLA sent to Cuba "very large numbers of young south-siders" for ideological indoctrination and military training. "They are there now, and our information is that there is a school in Cuba called the Sudan school," he added.

Brig. Dominique Cassiano, a member of Bashir's junta, told the newspaper Al Injaz Al Watany the rebels have 12,000 men in Cuba.

Bashir told reporters that he had President Hosni Mubarak discussed how to end the southern Sudan rebellion peacefully. They dealt with a potential Egyptian role in peacekeeping, both as honest broker as current chairman of the Organisation of Afri-

can Unity (OAU), he said.

The rebels and the government held peace talks in Addis Ababa last August and in Nairobi, Kenya, in December. Both rounds were inconclusive.

Government spokesman Suvit Yodmanee said Riyadh would stop issuing visas for Saudi citizens to visit Thailand for security reasons. He said he did not know when the restrictions would take effect.

"We regret very much that this has to happen. I suppose it will be in effect until we catch the culprits," Suvit said.

Describing the restrictions as understandable, he said security for Saudi diplomats in Bangkok had been stepped up since the Feb. 1 shooting of three embassy officials in a busy residential area.

Thai police believe the motive for the killing was international terrorism, but have yet to make any arrests.

Riyadh reacted to the murders by banning Thai workers from going to Saudi Arabia, an important source of foreign exchange for Thailand.

## Riyadh tells citizens not to visit Thailand

BANGKOK (R) — Saudi Arabia has advised its citizens not to visit Thailand following the murder of three Saudi embassy officials and the disappearance of a Saudi businessman in Bangkok, a Thai official said Wednesday.

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Business in Bangkok's Soi Nana, a popular red-light area for tourists from the Middle East, has slumped drastically since the Saudi killings, local newspapers said Tuesday.

The Bangkok Post quoted one bar owner as saying the number of Saudi customers at her bar had dropped by 40 per cent, and that she might have to close down if still fewer Arab customers came.

The attack was condemned by the European Community, one of the largest aid donors to Ethiopia, which Monday appealed to both sides to cease attacks and allow relief supplies to land.

Meanwhile it was not known what happened to about 50,000 tonnes of food stocked in Massawa when the fighting started, but some diplomatic sources feared it might have been destroyed.

If food is landed further south, airlifting it to Asmara would be necessary because the province south of Eritrea, Tigray, is in the hands of another rebel group, the Tigray People's Liberation Front (TPLF).

Successful airlifts have been organised to get round the rebel-held areas in the past," said one diplomatic source.

But the problem with airifts is that they are expensive and far less efficient than trucking, relief sources said.

One Hercules transport plane can move 1,500 tonnes a month, a small amount compared with the 18,000 tonnes a month needed by 1.25 million drought victims in Eritrea alone, said one relief source.

The current fighting in Eritrea also stalled a new plan for church agencies to take food over TPLF lines into Tigray, along with Eritrea the province worst hit by the drought.

The government said last month it would allow a group of local church agencies, the Joint Relief Partnership (JRP), to carry out an across-the-lines distribution programme.

But supplies for that plan would have come through Eritrea.

Another possible way in for supplies to both Tigray and Eritrea would be to increase supplies through Port Sudan to the rebels' own relief agencies. But relief workers have said in the past they doubted everyone could be fed that way because the route was so long and tortuous.

## Battle over Massawa hits drought victims

NAIROBI (R) — A battle between government troops and Eritrean rebels for Ethiopia's strategic Red Sea port of Massawa forced aid donors to seek new ways of getting food to millions of drought victims, diplomatic and relief sources say.

"We can't just hope the fighting will stop," said one diplomatic source in Addis Ababa, contacted by telephone from Nairobi. "People are looking around as fast as possible for alternative ways to transport food to the north."

One alternative route being considered was landing supplies to the port of Asab, further south, and organising an airift to the Eritrean Provincial capital of Asmara, the sources said.

"The situation is as serious as it possibly could be," said another source. "Relief prospects are grim at the moment."

Massawa, and the road up to Asmara, are the obvious route for food supplies to northern Ethiopia, where U.N. officials estimate up to four million people need food aid this year.

But the rebel Eritrean People's Liberation Front (EPLF), which is fighting for independence in Eritrea and which already controlled large areas in the west and north of the former Italian colony, launched a major offensive two weeks ago.

Food aid distribution in government-held areas of Eritrea, which had been going at a healthy pace, halted soon after the offensive began, relief officials said.

The rebels moved east and south, claiming to take Massawa and attacking the road to Asmara.

The government of President Mengistu Haile Mariam has denied the rebel claim to control of Massawa and diplomatic sources said it was hard to say which version was true, but they did not expect either side to give up the fight quickly.

A Danish ship entering Massawa 10 days ago with a cargo of mainly Irish-donated relief was attacked. Before it was released its cargo was unloaded by the EPLF, who said the supplies would be distributed to the needy through its own relief agency.

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## MIDDLE EAST NEWS BRIEFS

### Menem wants better ties with Syria

DAMASCUS (R) — Argentine President Carlos Menem was quoted Wednesday as saying he wanted stronger ties with his ancestral home Syria. "Relations between our two countries have always been good and could be better. And for this reason I sent my brother Mimir Menem as ambassador to Syria," he told Syrian television.

The interview was conducted in Buenos Aires and the text carried by the official Syrian News Agency (SANA). "Cooperation should be much deeper not only in the commercial and industrial fields but also in the cultural and political sectors," Menem said.

### Soviet envoy: No direct flights to Israel

BAGHDAD (AP) — The Soviet chargé d'affaires Wednesday joined other Soviet diplomats in the Arab World in trying to smooth local alarm over the immigration of hundreds of thousands of Soviet Jews into Israel. The weekly Al Ba'a quoted Alexander Kalogin, the ranking Soviet diplomat here, as saying the Soviet Union has no plans to allow direct flights for Soviet Jews from Moscow to Israel. "The talk about an air bridge between Moscow and Tel Aviv is not true as there are no direct flights... and we have no intention at the time of opening one," he said. The Soviet official said Moscow has been under pressure from Washington to allow direct flights but the U.S. appeals have been turned down. He also said some other countries have been asking Moscow to open direct flights, but he did not name them.

### Rafsanjani meets with Turkish aide

NICOSIA (AP) — Iranian President Hashemi Rafsanjani met Wednesday with visiting Turkish State Minister for Economic Affairs, Gunes Taner, Tehran Radio reported. The broadcast, monitored in Nicosia, said Taner submitted a message to Rafsanjani from his Turkish counterpart, Turgut Ozal. He also reported to Rafsanjani about his talks with Iranian officials, and expressed his country's readiness to boost cooperation with Iran, especially in reconstruction of war-battered industries, the radio said.

Yilmaz, 43, is widely seen as a

## Turkey names new foreign minister after Yilmaz quits

ANKARA (R) — Turkey's deputy prime minister and State Minister Ali Bozer was named the new foreign minister Wednesday, the state-run radio said.

The 66-year-old former law professor replaces Mesut Yilmaz, who resigned Tuesday.

Bozer, a Western-educated liberal, was in charge of Turkey's relations with the European Community (EC) to which it is seeking full membership.

"I have resigned (as foreign minister) as of today for I believe the minimum prerequisites for my continuation in office are lacking," Yilmaz told the radio.

"At a time when important developments in the world can be expected to influence Turkey, finding solutions to the problems and protecting national interests require a harmonious working of the cabinet," he said, indicating differences within the government.

Iran, which backs the Afghan guerrillas, has not officially recognised Shevardnadze's proposal.

The 10-point plan, printed in the Soviet government newspaper Izvestia last Wednesday, calls for a conference of Iran, Pakistan, the Soviet Union and the United States after a ceasefire in Afghanistan.

In Tehran, an Iranian newspaper Tuesday called for a U.N.-supervised plebiscite to determine the form of government in neighbouring Afghanistan.

The pro-government Tehran Times said a new Afghan government must be elected, the paper said, and Afghanistan should decide the question of demilitarisation, a key role in resolving the Afghan problem.

"Nobody can do anything without concurrence of the Afghan people and Mujahedeen," the radio quoted Rafsanjani as telling Pakistan's Armed Forces Chief of Staff General Aslam Beg.

Rafsanjani told reporters Yilmaz had presented his views to Prime Minister Yildirim Akbulut and President Turgut Ozal and "after a final assessment he resigned."

Akbulut told reporters Yilmaz's resignation had been endorsed by Ozal.

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## JORDAN TIMES DAILY GUIDE AND CALENDAR

### JORDAN TELEVISION

Telex: 77311-19

#### PROGRAMME ONE

12:30-13:00 ... Koran  
13:00-13:30 ... Programme review  
13:30-14:00 ... Children programme  
14:00-14:30 ... Book of Adventure  
14:30-15:00 ... News for the Deaf  
15:00-15:30 ... Religious programme  
15:30-16:00 ... Health programme  
16:00-16:30 ... Programme review  
16:30-17:00 ... Local series  
21:30-22:00 ... Programme review  
22:00-22:30 ... Local programme  
22:30-23:00 ... Arabic film  
23:00-23:30 ... News in Arabic

#### PROGRAMME TWO

18:10-18:30 ... Tel Pere Tel Fils  
18:30-18:50 ... La Chance sur chansons  
18:50-19:00 ... News in French  
19:00-19:15 ... Documentary  
19:15-19:30 ... News in Hebrew  
19:30-19:45 ... News in Arabic  
20:30-20:50 ... A Different World  
21:10-21:30 ... NBA Basketball  
22:00-22:20 ... News in English  
22:20-22:40 ... Feature film "Stage Fight"

#### PRAYER TIMES

04:50 ... Fajr (Sunrise) Dhu'l-Hijja  
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## Jordan Times

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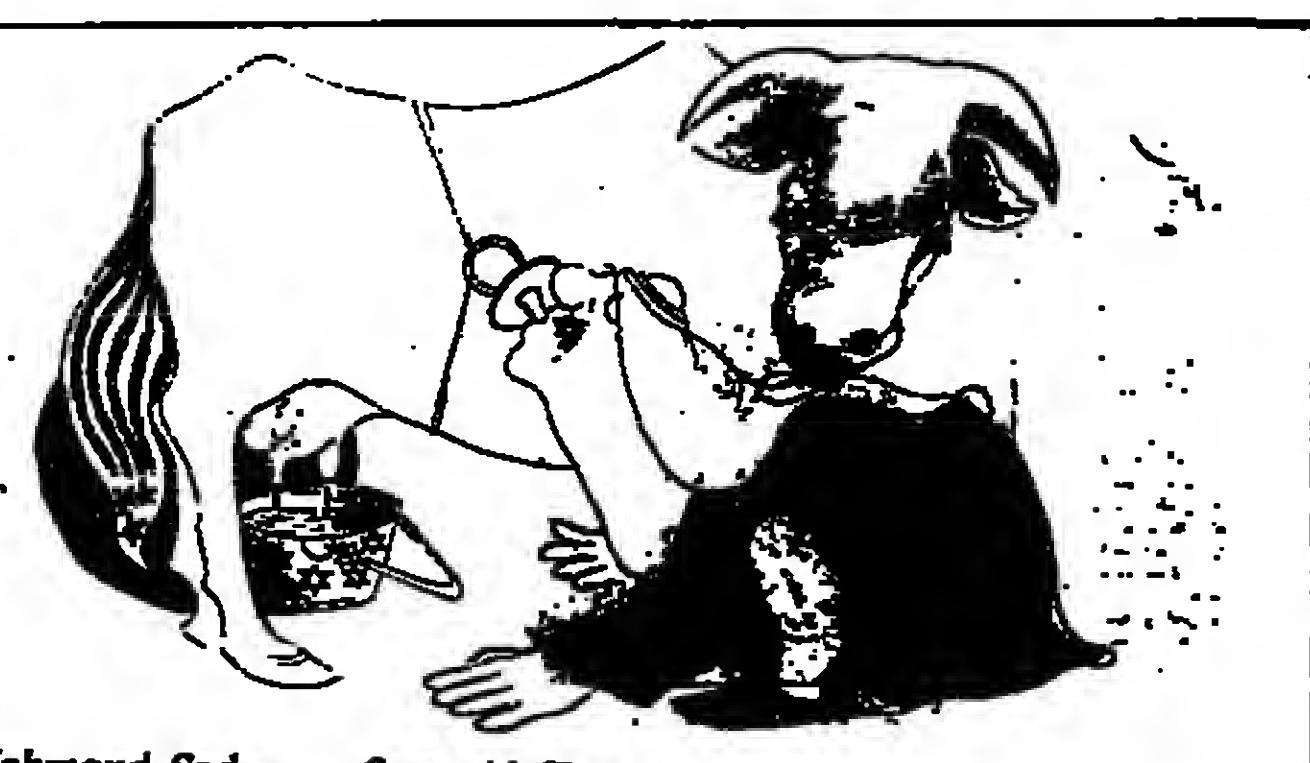
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## Proper diagnosis required

THE convening of a special United Nations session to discuss and probe the issue of drug trade is a timely international effort to root out the drug scourge at the source level. The magnitude of the drug epidemic is reflected in the volume of drug trafficking estimated at about \$500 billion, making it second only to international arms trade. However, this global war on drug cannot succeed without a concurrent deep-rooted commitment from all the countries of the world to lend their unwavering support to this international effort by incorporating the guidelines of the United Nations against drug trade into their respective domestic measures.

Admittedly there are already a considerable body of international and domestic legislation on how to combat the drug problem and all that is lacking is the will and determination to enforce such laws in a sensible and rational manner. Still, there is room for the argument that there is nevertheless need for an international convention that treats the drug problem in all its dimensions and manifestations. Unfortunately, existing domestic and international rules and regulations on illicit drug trade treat it as if it was only a matter for police action. This limited and short-sighted approach to a rather very complex crisis suggests that the diagnosis of the problem remains quite rudimentary and elementary never rising to the true challenge. What complicates the crisis even more is the fact that its causes differ from one society to another, thus requiring different prescriptions. There was a time when the entire drug problem was viewed as essentially a Western phenomenon that only developed into the industrialised world. Yet we now know better than to associate the drug problem with only the post industrial era of development, since the source of the problem is often linked to the developing world where poverty is still the dominant feature of societies. In other words the genesis of the drug problem can be attributed to many causes that are not necessarily related. This complicated diagnosis would require complicated remedies. That is why this timely international intervention must seek a balanced yet complementary approach to the drug crisis characterised by a multi-faceted and multi-dimensional approach. Otherwise the recommended remedy would fall short of the desired goal and the drug problem would remain unresolved for all intents and purposes.



## JORDAN PRESS EDITORIALS

Al Ra'i Arabic daily on Wednesday urged the Arab countries to deal with the common challenge facing the nation with one stand and united body. The situation is quite clear now: We are facing a conspiracy hatched by certain international forces which have no regard or respect to the Arab Nation's rights or interests and which are moving with determination and wickedness to achieve their goals in the Arab region, the paper warned. What is happening in the Arab arena is solving international problems at the expense of the Arab Nation and the Arab Order because hostile forces are well assured that the Arabs can do nothing to stop any action, the paper noted. It said that the situation is so serious that allows no further procrastination or delays on the part of the Arab countries. The Arabs ought to pool their resources and unify their ranks and adopt a collective action not by mere words but also by deeds if they hope to safeguard their national interests, the paper added. It said that any new moves on a bilateral or pan-Arab levels should follow a new course with a new mentality to achieve its purpose otherwise the Arabs are bound to be overwhelmed by the international conspiracies which aim at destroying the Arab World.

A columnist in Al Ra'i daily advocates the cause of the daily-paid workers at Amman municipality. Salah Abu Samad draws attention to the fact that these daily-paid workers do a great service to the capital and although they form a large sector of employees, they do not enjoy essential things offered to the rest of the public. Abdul Samad notes that these workers for instance are not covered by the health insurance system; and many of them with some university degrees are not fairly treated like their colleagues in other public services. In view of the soaring cost of living and the rising prices, it is most opportune for the concerned authorities to come to the aid of these unfortunate men who deserve appreciation for their efforts, the writer continues. He says these daily-paid workers who offer their good service to the community ought to receive a better treatment and ought to be helped to retain their good health so as to continue their service.

Sawt Al Shaab daily noted in its editorial Wednesday that voices that warn of the danger inherent in the influx of Soviet Jews in Palestine are many. These voices came from all Arab states particularly Saudi Arabia which has an influential role in the Arab World, the paper noted. It said that Jordan hopes that Riyadh will set a good example for the rest of the Arab countries by taking the initiative to provide Jordan with the proper means to enhance its steadfastness and protect the Arab Order.

## Talking Straight

# Is the National Charter a good idea?

THE subject of political parties in Jordan is closely coupled these days with that of the National Charter. There are strong sentiments in the country for and against the charter, and, although little is yet known about it, many have already made up their minds on where they stand on the issue.

What is known is that a Royal committee will be entrusted with drafting a document that would attempt at explaining important parts of the constitution, particularly those related to organised political activity in the Kingdom. This committee, which will be comprised of members from all parts of the political spectrum, both from inside and outside parliament, will then define a political framework for the country, a set of rules for playing the political game. The document, once formulated, will be offered to the people in a public referendum. If accepted, it will open the door for the re-emergence of legal political parties, which will be free to preach and exercise any ideologies they might choose as long as they abide by the principles of what will become to be known as the National Charter. Little is known beyond that as to the range and depth of issues that the Royal Committee would tackle, the length of time it will take, the legal power the charter will have, and other pertinent issues. But, it is evident that there is already a lot of discussion about it.

Those who favour the idea of the National Charter argue that the country has been without an organized, party-based political system for the last 33 years. The experience of the fifties was not a very successful one, they say, and the re-emergence of political parties without proper preparation would risk the stability the country enjoys, and might endanger all that has been achieved before. The charter, is therefore, a proper safeguard to ensure an orderly and non-turbulent transition back to a party-based system. Skeptics are afraid that the charter is a tool that will be used by the government to dilute their political rights, and would

serve to put a ceiling on political parties, to ensure that they are never allowed to mature, and have enough power to effectively share in governing the country. The constitution is clear, they say, and there is no reason why we should further attempt to explain it by a charter which does not have any legal cover.

Before I attempt to take sides, I think the basic question to answer is to look at the basic political goal that joins Jordanians from all walks of life, and then see if the charter helps or hurts the achievement of that goal. I think it is obvious that everybody today in Jordan is calling for the institutionalisation of the political process in the country. Everybody wants to have a say in shaping the country's future, everybody is interested in developing tools to do so, and it is to everybody's advantage to achieve this in an evolutionary manner that would not give the country and violent shocks.

Seen in this light, the National Charter can be regarded as a compromise and a tool. It is a compromise between those who are eager to go back to a party system as soon as possible and those who are afraid that doing so without the proper safeguards would gravely upset the tight balance in our society. It is a tool that will provide the mechanism for such an orderly transition, setting rules which no side need dominate, but are acceptable to all.

The rest is detail. What needs to be done is to assure its credibility, make sure it covers all the basic issues, and give it the proper legal cover.

Credibility can be attained by going to all lengths to ensure that the Royal committee genuinely represents all walks of political life in Jordan, and that it includes members from inside and outside parliament. I would also suggest that parliament itself elect its own representatives to the committee.

While it is premature to define the issues that the committee will concern itself with, I do not find it harmful at all to have

another look at our constitution. Romantic talk aside, it is not a bad idea at all to attempt to explain articles of the constitution, amend others, or even delete some. To be honest, the constitution is not generous in words when it comes to forming political parties, and like all other rights given to Jordanians, adds qualifying statements that practically always puts laws above the constitution. Allow me to quote Articles 15 (ii) and 16 (ii, iii) of the constitution to illustrate this:

Article 15 (ii): Freedom of the press and publications shall be ensured within the limits of the law.

Article 16 (ii): Jordanians are entitled to establish societies and political parties provided the objects of such societies and parties are lawful, their methods peaceful, and their by-laws not contrary to the provisions of the constitution.

Article 16 (iii): the establishment of societies and political parties and the control of their resources shall be regulated by law.

The point I want to make is that the constitution should be amended to ensure that such articles as 15(ii) and 16 (ii) do not negate any rights given by the constitution because of a bad law that might be enacted as has been the case repeatedly in the past. We need an article much like the First Amendment in the American constitution prohibiting parliament (congress) from enacting laws to abridge basic freedoms, and ensuring that the constitution is not abused.

Finally, we need to give the charter proper legal cover. I suggest that after and when it is accepted by the referendum that it is also ratified by parliament. Once that is done, parliament should amend the constitution and enact the proper laws that would implement the content of the National Charter. In this way, the charter would become part of our political process.

Is the National Charter a good idea? My answer is yes. Let us set out and do a good job with it.

## W. Germans poised to dominate eastern markets

By Carol J. Williams  
The Associated Press

BONN, West Germany — Before the Berlin Wall opened in a symbolic breaching of the East-West business barrier, Salamander AG had produced more than 50 million pairs of shoes for fashion-starved East Germans and Soviets.

Volkswagen, maker of some of Europe's best-selling cars, has for nearly 20 years been fitting Golf and Polo sedans with headlights, horns and engines made under contract in East Germany.

From Bertelsmann publishers supplying book clubs in Dresden to the Asche department store managers in Bulgaria, Hungary and the Soviet Union, West German merchants who nursed weak business prospects through the frosty decades of East-West discord are best positioned now to exploit opportunities in Eastern Europe.

"While many other European and other countries are trying to get their foot in the door in Eastern Europe, we're already in side, sitting on the sofa and having tea," Jochen Degkwitz, Deutsche Bank assistant vice president of East European affairs, said in describing his nation's commanding lead.

West Germany's boldness primarily has benefited cousin East Germany, and they seem to be moving towards economic reuni-

fication with stunning speed.

The West German mark, for example, could soon become the single national currency, a monetary union that would give Bonn enormous influence in rebuilding and reshaping the sickly East German economy.

West Germany already has the strongest economy in Europe, a strategic location as the pivotal point between East and West, and a long history as Eastern Europe's largest Western trading partner.

When finally calculated, West German trade with the East Bloc for 1989 is expected to exceed the \$31.7 billion recorded the previous year. It accounted for more than half of all business volume between Western Europe and the East Bloc, but only about 5 percent of West Germany's worldwide total.

It's difficult to estimate the potential for new business and industry in a region long locked in Socialist economics. But Eastern Europeans are starving for products ranging from cars to can openers. Economists say this demand could eventually translate into enormous profits for investors with the money and patience to endure a transition that could last a decade.

Heinrich Vogel, an economist who heads Cologne's Institute for Eastern and International Studies, contends the consumer needs of more than 400 million

people in Eastern Europe and the Soviet Union present international business with its best opportunity.

"The potential, in terms of an educated work force with unsatisfied consumer demands and a broad technology gap, is tremendous. Everyone is looking for new markets, and where else in the world do you have a better chance to make money?" Vogel said.

Western Europe, which has more than 10 times the volume of trade with Eastern Europe than either Japan or the United States, could retain its edge because of proximity and shared history and culture.

Most of the hundreds of cooperative ventures bringing Western goods to Eastern buyers are between European partners.

Philips of the Netherlands, for example, makes videocassette recorders with Tesla of Czechoslovakia, while Sweden's Volvo sells vans to East Germany. Austria's Wienerwald restaurant chain has branched into Hungary, and a handful of Western automakers recently have announced new projects, including a Volkswagen plant in Karl-Marx-Stadt and a Renault venture in Czechoslovakia.

Replacing costly imports with home-produced goods is the primary aim of East Europeans, said Gerd Adomeit, East European trade specialist with West

Germany's industry and trade council.

"We will contribute to their reconstruction mainly by cooperation in joint ventures and by providing technology, management skills and marketing skills to sell products in the West," Adomeit said. "However, import substitution is more important to East Europeans now."

Many West German businesses, sensing what was needed long ago, have been endorsed in efforts to help modernise Eastern Europe's crumbling infrastructure. Some are expected to do quite well in projects ranging from communications to power generation.

Stock prices have shot up for firms like Siemens electronics, a likely candidate to revamp the East Bloc's woeful telephone network. Upgrading of industrial plants will draw on the technical know-how of Thyssen, Hoechst and Preussag, and Daimler-Benz's transport expertise is in demand for the region's daunting rail electrification needs.

Most pressing and therefore most promising is the field of environmental cleanup, as Poland, East Germany and Czechoslovakia view for the honour of the continent's most polluted state.

West Germany has pledged more than \$1 billion to 17 East German cleanup projects. Asea Brown Boveri of Switzerland will



be producing steam turbines and other power plant equipment with Poland's Zamech firm in one of the first projects aimed at environmental improvement.

"People who think they can come and make a quick buck are going to be very disappointed," said Eddy Buchmann, senior vice president for American Express travel related services for Europe, Africa and the Middle East.

"Service with a smile, or service with sentiment, as we say at American Express, doesn't exist in Eastern Europe," Buchmann said.

## Japanese voters flirt with new power structure, but shy away

By Rich Miller  
Reuter

TOKYO — Japanese voters have shied away from ending the ruling party's 34-year hegemony for now, but their flirtation with the possibility of a new power structure may be just beginning.

"Japan looked at the possibility of an opposition government and said 'no, thanks,' at least not yet," Gerald Curtis, a political science professor at Columbia University in New York, said here on Monday.

Exploiting voter fears of inexperienced leaders piloting the country, the LDP has been the main beneficiary of the voters' unease with one-party rule, increasing their representation in the lower house to 136 seats from 85.

"I think, we as a nation, resist change," said 32-year-old Hiroshi Motoi, a private tutor. "But at the same time, we are very fed up. I was personally hoping for some sort of bipartisan arrangement between the LDP and the JSP but the result was very disappointing."

In the end, the JSP was unable to either field enough candidates to win the election on its own or form a pre-election coalition with other opposition groups.

"It looks like a return to the politics of the late '50's and '60's (which) someone once characterised as one and a half party system," Curtis said.

He was pessimistic that Doi, Japan's first female political leader, could refashion the JSP enough to convince voters that it is fit to govern.

"A lot of people have been blinded by the glow of Takako Doi," Curtis said. "It's very hard to see how the Socialist Party... can unload all the historical baggage it has carried around all these years."

Some other analysts, including Shiratori, believe the JSP can change, although they don't see it happening quickly.

The opposition's taste of power in the upper house could push it towards adopting more practical policies as it jousts with the ruling LDP.

Despite Sunday's victory, the LDP has problems of its own. Its traditional power base of farmers, businessmen and bureaucrats is showing some signs of wear and it is uncertain how long the party can juggle their conflicting demands.

"Although the LDP got an absolute majority, the LDP has some very fundamental, serious defects," Shiratori said. "They have no fundamental ideology as a conservative party."

Big business blames overseas criticism of Japan's huge trade surplus on the farmers and Japan's closed agriculture markets. The farmers say Japan's manufacturing companies are to blame, for exporting too much.

Meanwhile, increasing numbers of Japanese flocking to the cities to work are asking why they have to live in cramped housing and pay exorbitant prices for food if Japan is such a rich country.

However, in Japan's electoral district system, one rural vote is worth about three urban ones, so it's still a big temptation for all parties to court the farmers' vote.

"The electoral administration is a very serious problem if we think of building up Japan's democracy," Shiratori said.

Frightened by the prospect of losing its 34-year grip on power, the LDP pulled out all the stops to win Sunday's election, hitting up big business for a reputed 30 billion yen (\$210 million) to fund its campaign and promising farmers not to open Japan's rice market to imports.

Some senior West German politicians said this weekend they favoured subordinating East Germany to West German law rather than drawing up a new joint constitution.

"It would save us the bother of negotiating," Bavarian State President Max Streibl said.

Many people feel Bonn sees East Germany's first free elections on March 18 not as the start of democracy there but as a hurdle to cross before it can take over.

Unification on Bonn's terms would not just wipe out East Germany's political sovereignty. It would smother a culture defining the identity of its people.

Forty years of Communism have helped shape the East German consciousness and democratic socialism, not free-market capitalism, was the political credo.

"The West Germans must finally wake up from their complacency and understand that behaving like schoolteachers to other Germans only makes them look ridiculous," said Konrad Weisz, a one-time dissident film maker and now a leading figure in the citizens' movement Democracy Now.

"A ban on dreams has been decreed, which in the end means if wasn't the people of Leipzig who won, it was capitalism,"

"Although I am sceptical about the dream (of democratic socialism), it really disgusts me how, riding on the current wave of fashion, anything even slightly to do with

## Features



Television producer Alouzia Zaki looks forward to many more years of work.

## The woman behind the screen

By Kaffa Saber

CAIRO — Alouzia Zaki has built a reputation in Egypt's television world as a producer-director with a message. Whatever the subject of her films or documentaries, the viewer will find that there is a point to it all — something to remember.

The rapid development of Egypt's television — with three channels broadcasting to over 10

million TV sets — has produced more jobs for men than women, especially at management level, yet Zaki is one of seven women producers — she recently retired but has kept on a full schedule of activities at the TV studios. In her 60s, she can look back on a long career which has won her national and international recognition.

Stolid and pragmatic, she welcomes this journalist into her

office in the TV building near the Nile during a rare moment of peace and quiet. Most of her time is spent in the studios and trailers where the video equipment is set up. Like many women of her generation who have beaten the odds to enter a career, she found that to be accepted you had to be better, which meant putting the job first and foremost. Filled with the confidence that experience

brings, she does not seem to regret it and is eager to talk about her work.

One of her recent series, called "Bitter Lakes" (*El Bohairat el Morsa*) based on a novel by Aboulada Al Sabouni is typical: a long story with many twists and plots involving a host of characters but with a strong focus. "This series shows the exodus of peasants abandoning their land to go to the cities or to foreign shores, drawn by the dream of a better life," Zaki explains, adding that she was able to enlist the help of many famous actors to fill the parts.

With her roots running deep in a small town of rural Egypt, she knew how to express the poignancy of deserting one's home in search of a future. There is new-found softness in Zaki's voice when she recalls her childhood, the house her father built to accommodate his family of eight children. "My oldest sister was just finishing college when my father died; then it was up to my mother to try to give us the formal education she had wanted so badly for herself but could not get," Zaki mused. "My mother was quite a lady, even when she was a small girl she knew what she wanted. Imagine that at 8 she decided to follow her brothers to school, something quite unheard of at the time for a girl, especially in a rural area. In the 1920s there were no schools for girls and parents did not even think about it. Well, she started a small revolution — other girls came to school, but like many revolutions it fizzled out."

With a smile Zaki admits that, although the taboos about girls' education had been lifted when she was a student, she only completed one year of college after taking classes in philosophy and psychology.

Was she already thinking of making movies? "No, not really... but once I saw in a magazine a photo that made me dream. It showed the director Mohammad Karim with his German-born wife and the caption explained that she helped him produce his movies. I remember thinking how lucky she was and how I would have liked to be in her shoes."

Zaki did interrupt her studies to marry, but it was not to a movie director. He was a university professor whom she followed to England where he did research for a few years. It was not love at first sight, she says, more like seizing an opportunity to travel. The couple had three daughters, and then after 13 years of marriage Zaki's husband announced that he was leaving her for a

teen-age girl.

"I took it philosophically," she says. "It's no use fighting reality or letting grief overwhelm you. I had had 13 rather enjoyable years, it had ended and it was time to go on to something else."

The something else was work. Television was just starting and demand was high for secretaries able to speak English.

In those pioneer days Zaki was hired as secretary to an American expert entrusted with setting up the studios and organising personnel. Her lucky day came when the expert asked her to assist him while he directed a television play. She fell in love with the work and asked to be transferred to the production department, thus drawing as much criticism as her mother when she tried to attend school. Who had ever heard of a secretary becoming a director, and a woman on top of it all?

When the dust settled Zaki had won. For four years she assisted famous television producers, and then in 1965 she was given full responsibility for a half-hour play. This short production marked the beginning of a well-filled career that has known few failures.

One of her latest projects was the filming of a story called "The Taming of Man" (*Tarwid Al Rajab*) written by author Sekina Fouad. Reminded that this marked the first time that she focused on a feminist topic, Zaki says her vision of the book is somewhat different. "What I find particularly interesting in Sekina Fouad's book is the communication problem between men and women. In fact I plead for a dialogue between the two instead of resorting to the hasty decisions and stand-offs where each remains well entrenched in his/her position. My feelings about what we call the feminist movement are similar to my mother's: she was convinced of the equality of boys and girls. Men and women share the same problems and women are not in a worse position."

"Also, I am convinced that women have brought on themselves many of the social injustices they suffered. For example they continue to look at men as the all-powerful master who must be obeyed blindly and to whom all must be forgiven."

Times have changed, Zaki adds, but not enough progress has been made. Women's rights were recognised such a short time ago that women still don't understand what it means and don't know how to capitalise on this. For example, she says, in the

movie "Taming of Men" a man who just got married leaves his bride the next day to meet his girlfriend, as he had done when he was a bachelor. The question is how will the bride react?

"Just think how incredible it would be to reverse the roles and to examine the man's reaction," Zaki says with a laugh. "The public would pan it... You see, we are still far from real equality, but with this movie I raised questions and may be one day the answers will come."

To the traditional question about her worst memory during a production, Zaki laughs recalling an incident involving a tiny tot who had asked the mother to feed the baby well before "his" scene so he would not cry, but as preparations took longer than planned, she found the child soaking-wet when she picked him up to put him bed with the main actress. "The mother had forgotten to bring any diapers," Zaki exclaims, anger creeping in. "This baby was going to catch a cold, so I took charge and the stage became a nursery for a little while." Was the baby easier to deal with than some adult actors and actresses, especially those with a reputation for being difficult?

"Some of my colleagues have had problems, but not me," she says. "Maybe it's because I value the notion of mutual respect. I give very precise instructions. I am on time for my appointments and I keep a tight work schedule. Every day in the studio is planned so that in the morning I work with one group of actors in a particular setting, and in the afternoon with another group in another setting. This way they have rest periods and you avoid the stress caused by long filming sessions."

With a touch of humour she prefers not to dwell on the works of which she is not particularly proud — "to not stir the memory of the viewers," she says, but she names her favourite without hesitation: "A Man Named Abbas" (*Rajhoul esmou Abbas*) which may have been the last role of Mahmoud Al Meligi — "one of our best actors portraying the richest character in terms of feelings that I ever brought to the screen," Zaki says. Abbas, a hero despite himself, faces up to the mafia ruling a small village where he has recently retired.

Would Zaki consider changing her profession, especially when the going gets rough, as it often does? "Never, absolutely never. It's in my blood; I like it so much that I don't feel the tiredness, I only want to go on filming and to improve" — World News Link.

### Randa Habib's Corner

#### Serious fun

IN this mood of conservatism that we live in, many topics and activities need to be probed into and reevaluated. And I propose to raise here some questions so as to help the authorities find the appropriate solutions.

Let us begin today with a crucial topic: parties and what goes in them. Of course I don't mean political parties as they have their own space to be tackled with.

Dancing is and will remain a major topic at the parties in question be they private or public. Reform begins by determining whether dances should be allowed in parties.

If we agree that dancing shouldn't be banned then we need to define the kind of dancing required: oriental, occidental or accidental.

Hence, if we want to maintain the spiralling occidental dancing slow and tango must be performed in a proper manner, and under the following regulations.

Rule 1- A couple dancing cheek-to-cheek had better have their "family register book" at hand as they are bound to prove they (he and she) were next to kin, in order to be allowed on the floor.

Rule 2- Distance between dancing partners should be fixed at 15 to 30 centimetres so as to prevent direct friction. This rule can be closely monitored by a "specialised" controller.

Rule 3- The tones and level of lighting are important as light ignites dormant feelings. The halls, therefore, should be dimly lit and red-free, otherwise they should be closed.

Rule 4- Disposition and the facial expressions of party-goers be subject to a certain formula wherein closed eyes should be forbidden. Dreamlike eyes are not appreciated and laughter is of bad taste. A serious expression that suits the seriousness of the situation in our area is requested.

Rule 5- Lambada and break-dancing are exempt from the above regulations.

I really hope these innovative ideas could help the authorities control "edgy" fun as fun is not a matter to be taken lightly.

**Threat of famine in Ethiopia**

By George Gedda  
The Associated Press

WASHINGTON —

The lives of up to 5 million Ethiopians are at risk because anti-government forces have shut down a port that has been the key entry point for outside food assistance, U.S. officials say.

Further aggravating the situation has been the prospect of severely diminished harvests throughout northern Ethiopia as a result of poor rainfall.

To the west, U.S. officials say a crisis situation is rapidly developing in the Sudan, where a bitter civil war has prevented the transport of relief supplies to rebel-held territory in the southern part of the country.

President George Bush sent a letter to the Sudanese president last week asking for his cooperation in restarting the international relief effort, to which the United States contributes \$15.7 million.

Renewed fighting has led to the suspension of food flights to southern Sudan. The government

is preventing the departure of a relief train along a route where food shortages are severe, and the rebels have been blocking relief efforts.

Estimates of the number of Sudanese potentially affected by famine range between 1 million and 3 million.

Last year, the government and rebels cooperated with Operation Lifeline Sudan, a U.N.-led campaign to pre-position food stockpiles, which averted a repeat of the 1988 famine that killed 250,000 Sudanese.

In Ethiopia, the cutoff of relief supplies through Massawa, a deep water port of the Red Sea, affects not only Eritrea province but also Tigray and portions of three other provinces.

"The next six weeks to two months is the critical time," said Andrew Natsios, director of the Office of Foreign Disaster Assistance.

"We're trying to explore options for getting the food in," he said.

He added that a "worst nightmare" scenario is developing — a civil war and a famine in the same area at the same time.

A Western relief official told the Washington Post, "if the port is closed for any length of time, then there is the possibility of tragedy in northern Ethiopia."

The situation evoked memories of the 1984-85 period in Ethiopia when more than a million people died, primarily because of drought.

Renewed drought last year in Ethiopia touched off a major international relief programme led by the United States and the European Community, both of which funnel food donations through private voluntary organisations. Other contributing countries include Canada and Australia.

Thus far, the United States has either delivered or pledged more than \$70 million to the relief effort. The figure for the rest of the international community is about \$84 million, according to U.S. estimates.

## Newly found statue proves little people could reach the heights

By Mimi Manna  
The Associated Press

GIZA PLATEAU, Egypt — Per-N-Ankh lived the good life of an Egyptian bureaucrat about 4,500 years ago, and when he died, his pharaoh honoured him with a burial plot near the Giza pyramids.

His statue portrays Per-N-Ankh as a portly man with penetrating eyes, in the prime of life.

Per-N-Ankh was also a dwarf. Egyptian archaeologists discovered his tomb in October, his bones and statue in January. Their study has only just begun.

But they are certain eventually to place Per-N-Ankh on a select list of antiquity's most famous dwarfs and give new insights into an intriguing field already under study: The role of little people in ancient Egypt's life and religion.

Egyptologist Knent Weeks of

American University in Cairo and the University of California, Berkeley, said he's been fascinated by the subject for more than 25 years.

"We have portrayals of dwarfs earlier than there were pharaohs," Weeks said. But he said the new find is rare because "the oldest statue we have of a dwarf has the legs intentionally cut off, and other statues disguised dwarfs."

"Here we see a pudgy man with fat legs that emphasise he's a dwarf. He's a man with power, who's saying to the world, 'it's no problem I'm a dwarf.' He's middle-aged, leading a good life and proud to say so."

The well-preserved statue, carved from black basalt, is 20 inches tall, just over nine inches wide and almost 11 inches deep (50 cm by 23 cm by 27 cm). It depicts a muscular official dressed

in a white kilt, his stubby legs bare from the knee to the toes.

"It's unclear yet what Per-N-Ankh's religious or bureaucratic duties were. His tomb, and the statue itself, show he was an important man, but details of his official duties are lacking. Inscriptions in some tombs of dwarfs identify them as officials in charge of 'the community of little people,' but Per-N-Ankh's list is no such ties with other dwarfs."

"We don't have proof that ancient Egyptians thought dwarfs were special but generations of artists of the old kingdom painted them performing many jobs," said Professor Ola Al Aguzzi of Cairo University.

The old kingdom, Per-N-Ankh's time, lasted almost 450 years and ended in 2134 B.C.

Dr. Al Aguzzi, who wrote her master's thesis on ancient Egyp-

tinian dwarfs, said they took on interesting roles in religion and magic in later periods.

Dwarfs, often associated with the sun god, participated in ritual dances outside the tomb on burial day. Dwarfs seen in dreams meant the dreamer would foretell half his life.

This magical aspect of dwarfs... must have had its origins earlier, especially in the old kingdom, when I suspect people believed having a dwarf would bring them luck," said Al Aguzzi.

Also, dwarfs were associated with resurrection, maybe because the ancients thought a dwarf resembled an embryo, the beginning of a new life."

The find at Per-N-Ankh's tomb brings to 121 the number of dwarf statues surviving from the first 2,000 years of Egyptian history, ending with the new kingdom in 1,070 B.C.

Dwarf statues enjoyed a boom in popularity starting in the mid-fourth century B.C., when the Greeks, and later the Romans, ruled Egypt. Tens of thousands of statues remain.

More than 50 tombs in the cemeteries of Giza and nearby Sakara had dwarfs painted on their walls. Early paintings portray little people working among other servants, holding leashes of dogs or donkeys, carrying furniture or toilet articles or making jewellery. Female dwarfs are pictured mimicking dances per-

formed by normal-sized women.

One dwarf was buried as he requested, next to the master he served in life.

But not all dwarfs were born to serve.

One named Seneb, whose large tomb abuts Per-N-Ankh's, held high office with social, religious and honorary titles, and married a normal-sized princess.

His limestone statue, a tourist favourite in Cairo's Egyptian museum, clearly identifies him as an official but has his sitting cross-legged to obscure his height.

Per-N-Ankh's statue also indicates he was far more than an ordinary bureaucrat.

Basalt was precious stone, far more expensive than the limestone used for Seneb's statue or for Per-N-Ankh's tomb and an outside viewing room that allowed visitors to offer gifts to the statue of the dead dwarf.

Hieroglyphs on the statue and outside the tomb identify Per-N-Ankh as "an acquaintance of the king and known to the palace."

Even to be able to be seen by the pharaoh was significant.

Weeks said, "because if a person accidentally touched the pharaoh — even came into his shadow — he could be killed."

With East Germany's

reunification, a grassroot group

is working to build a new

Germany. The group

is calling for a new

Germany, a new Europe and

a new world.

They are also calling for a

new Europe and a new

world.

They are also calling for a

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## Tokyo share price drop fans Black Monday memories

**TOKYO** (Agencies) — The steep drop on the Tokyo stock market Wednesday had many hallmarks of Black Monday — but analysts are betting there were enough differences to avoid a repeat of the 1987 global crash.

As in October 1987, global stock markets have been alarmed this week by fears of higher interest rates worldwide.

Wall Street shares plunged nearly 1½ per cent Tuesday, Tokyo stocks dropped more than 1½ per cent Wednesday and European markets have been weak, largely because investors are worried about a chain of rate rises around the world.

"The similarities are worrying," said Marshall Gittler, bond market analyst at broker UBS Phillips and Drew (International).

The 1,161.19 point drop on the Tokyo market was the biggest since Oct. 23 1987, just days after the Black Monday crash that shook stock markets worldwide.

But in percentage terms it was much smaller — just over three per cent compared with nearly 15 per cent in 1987 on the day after Wall Street's Black Monday. It did not even rank in the top 10 biggest declines on the Tokyo stock market.

With Sunday's Japanese election over, many analysts believe it is only a matter of time before the central bank raises its discount rate, the interest it charges banks for loans.

Rapid money supply growth, spreading labour shortages and a weak Japanese yen all point to an increase in the Bank of Japan's 4.25 per cent discount rate, they said.

"It's a foregone conclusion that Japanese rates are going up," said Kenneth Courtis, strategist for Deutsche Bank Group. "There is an inevitable given interest rate competition around the world."

Investors are also worried about increases in West German interest rates — where talk of the unification of East and West is fanning fears of inflation — and possibly even in the United States.

U.S. Federal Reserve Chairman Alan Greenspan, head of the American central bank, cautioned Tuesday against complacency about the outlook for U.S. inflation.

"There is confusion not only over credit policy in Japan but

also in West Germany and the United States. What are the policies and are the central banks coordinating?" said market strategist Craig Chudler at broker Smith New Court. "The situation doesn't look very pretty."

It didn't look good back in 1987 either. At that time, Japanese bond yields were rising and the United States was criticising West Germany for raising interest rates.

Investor worries that the multi-lateral network of economic policy coordination was breaking down helped trigger a near 20 per cent drop on Wall Street on Oct. 19, 1987.

That set off a global chain of share price drops. But the Tokyo market held up the best to the worldwide selling spree and, some analysts argue, partially acted as an anchor for skittish stock markets elsewhere, especially in America.

This time, however, it might be New York that has to come to rescue of Tokyo.

"The U.S. market is much better valued now," said UBS Phillips and Drew's Gittler. "There isn't the same type of speculative froth there was in 1987."

Back then, computer-driven selling linked to index futures contracts played a big role in the U.S. stock market plunge.

Wall Street has since acted to reign in much programme trading, limiting its influence on the overall market.

But in Tokyo — where index-linked futures contracts did not even exist in 1987 — computer-based trading has taken on an added importance since its introduction 1½ years ago.

"It was a spiral effect," said a futures trader at Kokusai Securities Company, describing Wednesday's action in Tokyo. "People were selling (stock index) futures and selling the cash market."

In 1987, Wall Street was viewed by many as an overvalued market. Now some analysts say the same of Tokyo.

"The market is riskier now than at any time I've been involved in the last five years," said Andrew Ballingal, a strategist at Barclays De Zoete Wedd Securities (Japan). "Equities prices in relation to interest rates are way too high... and there is earnings risk now."

Japanese policymakers put on a brave face after Wednesday's

stock price drop, saying the fall was not caused by any panic-charged selling and that volume was light.

But the finance ministry was worried enough about the rise in bond yields — they soared to four-year highs at one point this week — that it bought back bonds Wednesday for the first time since just before the 1987 crash.

Kermit Schoenholz, economist at Salomon Brothers Asia, said Japanese stock prices fell because of domestic factors — they were too expensive when compared with bond yields — and maintained that that should limit the fall-out overseas.

"I am in no way looking for another crash of '87," said Phillips and Drew's Gittler, echoing the views of many analysts in Tokyo.

Meanwhile, the symbolic collapse of the Berlin Wall opened a door of opportunity that attracted a big flow of Japanese investment to the West German stock exchange, helping not only to fuel a market boom but also raising speculation of a big slump once the money dries up.

According to the Securities Dealers Association of Japan, Japanese investors increased the amount of their holdings of West German stocks to \$944 million by the end of 1989, about 2½ times the amount of a year earlier.

"The amount of Japanese investments has been growing nowhere else but in West German stocks," said Kazumasa Fumoka, an association spokesman.

Helping attract the investment is speculation that Eastern Bloc liberalisation and weakening East-West tensions will mean big moneymaking opportunities for West German companies in coming years.

Relatively weak performances in other major stock markets also have made the Frankfurt exchange look attractive.

## Syria reports oil find

**DAMASCUS** (R) — Oil Minister Mianos Habib said Wednesday that Syria had discovered a new oil field and that analysis of an established one showed promising reserves.

The state-owned Syrian Petroleum Company (SPC) has struck oil in commercial quantities just north of other fields in the central region, Habib told Reuters in an interview.

A study of the reserves and output capacity of the new field, named Dibaian, was underway.

Habib added that new surveys of Jarjark field in north east Syria by the border with Iraq, carried out by Al Sham Contract Company operated by Shell, Dimon and Pertin companies, had revealed good reserves.

Syria, a member of the Organisation of Arab Petroleum Exporting Countries, produces about 400,000 barrels oil per day (b/d) from central and northeast

ern fields.

Habib said two oilfields, Shadai and Thuban in the central Dyr-Azzawr area, were likely to start test production of 15,000 b/d soon.

Economy and Foreign Trade Minister Mohammad Imadi said last week the value of Syria's oil exports last year was 9.14 billion pounds (\$840 million). He did not reveal the quantity.

Oil industry sources said Syria planned to invest \$760 million in SPC oilfields this year. Foreign oil companies would invest \$1.104 billion in the country's oil industry.

The sources said 25 exploration and 11 production rigs were currently operating in Syria.

They added that three big power stations would be converted to use domestically-produced natural and associated gas instead of fuel oil used currently, saving \$300 million per year.

## Canada curbs spending, avoids tax increases

Tuesday, has sunk to the lowest level of any government since the Gallup organisation began polling in Canada in 1942.

Only 21 per cent of Canadians backed the Conservatives in the poll against 51 per cent for the opposition Liberals and 22 per cent for the New Democrats.

In the budget, deficit is to fall to 23.7 billion dollars in fiscal 1991 from 25.3 billion dollars this year.

Budget revenues this year will rise 6.1 per cent to 99 billion dollars. Total expenditures, meanwhile, will rise 3.4 per cent to 123 billion dollars.

Spending increases on government programmes will be held below the rate of inflation, to 3.7 per cent annually for two years.

The government was forced to restrain spending because its previous efforts to trim the deficit were blown off course by higher than expected borrowing costs on government debt.

That restraint, however, will come at a painful time for the Canadian economy.

## Ciba-Geigy opens shares to foreigners

**ZURICH** (R) — Swiss chemicals and drugs giant Ciba-Geigy A.G. opened its share register Wednesday to international investors, joining a growing number of Swiss companies making an effort to make their stock more attractive.

Like Nestle, Ciba-Geigy has promised to lift its dividend payout to more acceptable international levels from the modest 20 per cent of earnings it rewarded shareholders with last year.

"I expect to see a much higher dividend this year," Sturm said. "The market becomes more attractive through this kind of internationalisation."

But there are dangers in opening the registered shares to foreigners, particularly in the early stages when the bearer shares lose the justification for their premium — exclusivity.

When Nestle opened its register in 1988, bearer shares plunged and dragged the whole Swiss market down with them.

But Sturm said he believed that would not be repeated by Ciba-Geigy's bearer holders and that the market was now resilient.

## Greenspan seems unwilling to make early interest cuts

**WASHINGTON** (R) — The head of the U.S. central bank has appeared to rule out any quick cuts in interest rates, arguing that the plodding U.S. economy is so sluggish the Fed will probably be pushed to ease credit again.

"Had he been softer on either the economy or inflation, he would have opened the door to (congressional) criticism for not having eased further," said Ray Stone of the New York firm of Stone and McCarthy Research Associates.

Greenspan's remarks, made in his semi-annual report to Congress, hammered both bond and stock prices and were criticised by the business community.

"The idea that slow economic growth is needed to bring down inflation is based on a theory that has long since been discredited," the U.S. Chamber of Commerce said in a statement, adding: "In fact, higher growth rates are

associated with lower rates of inflation."

Some economists, however, appeared to dismiss Greenspan's tough talk about inflation, saying the U.S. economy is so sluggish the Fed will probably be pushed to ease credit again.

"Through much of last year, the Fed had been gradually nudging interest rates lower in an effort to keep the economy from tumbling into a recession."

But the Fed has held credit steady since late in 1989.

Financial markets had been anticipating another slight easing by the Fed to prop up the weakening economy, but Greenspan's closely watched testimony dispelled hopes that would happen soon.

Meanwhile, sharp rises in food and energy costs pushed U.S. consumer prices up 1.1 per cent in January, the largest monthly gain in more than seven and a half years, the Labour Department said Wednesday.

## Britons discuss offset schemes in S. Arabia

**RIYADH** (AP) — A high-level delegation of British industrialists Wednesday concluded five days of meetings in Saudi Arabia aimed at developing arms-related industrial schemes that help transfer Western technology to the kingdom.

The Al Yamamah offset programme, expected to pump \$2 billion in diversified investments into Saudi Arabia, was made in connection with massive British arms sales in 1985 and 1988.

The United Kingdom sold almost \$30 billion in Tornado, Hawk, and PC-9 aircraft, plus other military equipment and services to Saudi Arabia in the first stage of the programme.

Among the businessmen were executives from General Electric Company, GKN, Pilkington Brothers, STC, Northern Engineering Industries, Booker-Tate and Imperial Chemical Industries.

In exchange, British firms are expected to invest approximately \$2 billion in joint ventures, but potential investors have com-

plained about the lengthy approval process.

Over the past decade, Saudi Arabia has used offset programmes to build up a technological base aimed at lessening economic dependence on oil. The first offset deals were arranged with the United States, the leading arms supplier to the kingdom.

The 10-member British group — which visited Jeddah, the southwest Asian region, and the Gulf-side Eastern Province — was led by Richard Spink, head of the British Ministry of Defence Offset Office.

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## ECONOMIC NEWS BRIEFS

### Egypt, Spain discuss trade

**MADRID** (R) — Egyptian Deputy Prime Minister Esmat Abdul Maguid started two days of talks on the Middle East and Egypt's trade deficit with Spain Wednesday, diplomatic sources said. They said talks with Foreign Minister Francisco Fernandez Ordóñez covered ways to boost trade exchanges. Egypt had an \$11 million trade deficit with Spain last year. Abdul Maguid told reporters Spain, as a European Community member and a Mediterranean country enjoying good relations with Arab countries, was a major partner for Egypt. Prime Minister Felipe Gonzalez pledged all-out support to overcome Egypt's economic crisis when he visited Cairo in 1987. Abdul Maguid inaugurated a joint cooperation commission with Fernandez Ordóñez and later met King Juan Carlos.

### EI Al wants to fly to E. Germany

**EAST BERLIN** (R) — Israel's El Al airline wants to start regular flights to East Berlin now that diplomatic relations with East Germany look increasingly likely, the official ADN news agency said Tuesday. ADN also said El Al had signed a treaty with the East German state carrier Interflug under which the two airlines recognised each other for the first time and agreed to handle each other's tickets. "There is great interest on the Israeli side in running flights between (Israel) and East Berlin," Interflug's flight director Kurt Zube told ADN, but added that the link could not come before an air traffic agreement between the two countries. Israel has never had relations with East Germany because its leaders never accepted responsibility for the holocaust. Since the collapse of communist rule last year, East Germany has reversed its policy and the two countries have held official talks.

### Minorco to buy U.S. company

**NEW YORK** (R) — South African-backed Minorco, the world's biggest gold mining company, said Tuesday it had agreed to buy Freeport-McMoran Gold, a New Orleans mining company, for \$705 million. Minorco, or Minerals and Resources Corp. Ltd. is the Luxembourg-based investment arm of Harry Oppenheimer's Anglo American Corp of South African Ltd and De Beers Consolidated Mines Ltd. The Oppenheims are one of South Africa's wealthiest families, with a fortune built on gold and diamonds. Freeport-McMoran Gold Co. is 61 per cent owned by Freeport-McMoran Inc, which has an interest in a string of mining and energy exploration businesses in the United States. Its gold unit, based in New Orleans, Louisiana, mines and processes gold ore and explores for minerals and precious metals in North America. Last year the Oppenheims conceded defeat in their hostile \$4.2 billion takeover bid for Britain's Consolidated Gold Field PLC, the world's no. 2 gold producer.

### Iran, S. Korea agree on projects

**NICOSIA** (R) — Iran has said it had agreed with South Korea on the participation of South Korean firms in major gas, petrochemical and industrial projects. The accord was reached in talks with a delegation led by South Korean Energy Minister Lee Bong-Suh. Iran's IRNA news agency quoted Oil Minister Ghahreza Aqazadeh as saying, "Aqazadeh said the two sides agreed to complete the Bandar Khomeini petrochemical complex, a joint venture from which Japanese partners led by Mitsui withdrew, and the building of the second phase of the Kangan gas refinery, both on Iran's Gulf coast. A unit of the first phase of the refinery, built by the South Korean firm Daewoo, began operating earlier this month.

## AMMAN EXCHANGE RATES

Wednesday, February 21, 1990	
Central Bank official rates	
Buy	Sell
U.S. dollar	671.0 675.0
Pound Sterling	1148.0 1154.9
Denmark	404.8 404.2
Swiss franc	433.9 436.6

## LONDON EXCHANGE RATES

LONDON (R) — Following are the buying and selling rates for leading world currencies and gold against the dollar at mid-session on the London foreign exchange and bullion markets Wednesday.	
One Sterling	1.7145/55
One U.S. dollar	1.1990/2000
U.S. dollars	Canadian dollar
Deutschmarks	Dutch guilders
1.8775/85	Swiss francs
1.4733/40	Belgian francs
34.77/80	French francs
5.6525/75	Italian lire
1235/1236	Japanese yen
145.18/28	

# Sports

## HOROSCOPE

FORECAST FOR THURSDAY FEBRUARY 22, 1990  
By Thomas S. Pierson, Astrologer, Carroll Righter Foundation

**ARIES:** (March 21 to April 19) You are about to have some very interesting experiences and recreations come into your life. Go with your family now to visit other relatives and friends.

**TAURUS:** (April 20 to May 18) Interesting new acquaintances will now be waiting to come into your life. Find out now what your attachment needs of a practical nature and give it.

**GEORGE:** (May 21 to June 19) A family member that was out of your life will come back to be helpful to you. Give your attachment a present of material value.

**MOON CHILDREN:** (June 22 to July 21) Admit an official charming woman to your social circle now. Enter an outside associate in your home and it will benefit you.

**LEO:** (July 22 to August 19) Be alert for doing favours for friends and you will reap tremendous benefits. Accept sudden romantic gestures from your mate and enjoy yourselves.

**VIRGO:** (August 22 to September 21) Your home is the place to think about adding improvements to increase your value. Stick to proven methods in doing what pleases your attachment for more joy.

FORECAST FOR FRIDAY FEBRUARY 23, 1990  
By Thomas S. Pierson, Astrologer, Carroll Righter Foundation

**ARIES:** (March 21 to April 19) You have the chance today to make some interesting new friendships. Improving your property will impress influential persons on you.

**TAURUS:** (April 20 to May 18) You can join forces with new acquaintances in enjoying recreations now. You see with your family how to increase value of your property and concord at home.

**GEMINI:** (May 21 to June 19) Finish undone tasks before you take on new duties that appeal to you. Romance is uppermost in your mind and heart with your attachment.

**MOON CHILDREN:** (June 22 to July 21) Accept charming outsiders now into your inner circle of friends. Invite a charming partner into your home for discussions of joint interest.

**AQUARIUS:** (January 21 to February 19) Look around for as many persons of different views from yours as friends. Long accepted friends are best to have in your home now.

**PISCES:** (February 20 to March 18) Keep your satisfactory friendships open by entertaining them. An understanding couple can make your home life more pleasant for you and mate.

## GOREN BRIDGE

WITH OMAR SHARIF & TARIK HIRSHON,  
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### HOLD UP THAT GUESS

North-South vulnerable. South deals.

**NORTH**  
♦ K 2 6  
♥ 7 4 2  
♦ Q 9 3  
♦ K 1 5

**WEST**  
♦ 5 4 2 ♦ A 7 3  
♥ J 10 9 8 3 ♦ Q 6  
♦ 10 6 5 ♦ 8 7 6 2  
♦ A 2 ♦ 9 2 6 4

**SOUTH**  
♦ Q 10 9  
♥ A 5  
♦ A K J  
♦ Q 10 7 3

**EAST**  
♦ K 8 7 6 5  
♥ 9 8 7 6 5  
♦ 10 9 8 7 6 5  
♦ A 2 3 ♦ 9 8 7 6 5

The bidding:  
South: West: North: East  
1 ♦ Pass 1 ♦ Pass  
2 NT Pass 3 NT Pass  
Pass Pass

Opening lead: Jack of ♦

Good declarer play is not the prerogative of those with a thorough knowledge of calculus. Following a few simple concepts will improve anyone's skill.

If 26 points are all that are required to make three no trump, declarer should have made his contract with an overtrick. South's sequence showed 19-20 points, so North had more than enough to raise to game.

West led the Jack of hearts, East put up her queen and declarer won. With two aces to force out before

being able to enjoy nine tricks, declarer gazed vacantly into space for a brief while before electing to attack spades. Tough luck!

East took the ace and reverted to hearts, and declarer's remaining stopper was removed. West grabbed the ace of clubs at the first opportunity and was able to cash just enough hearts to defeat the contract one trick.

Now it is true that, had declarer chosen to force out the ace of clubs first, rather than the ace of spades, nine tricks would have been easy. In fact, South could have taken 11. But that was a sheer guess. Instead, a simple maneuver would have insured the contract.

Holdup plays are common enough when declarer holds only one stopper in the suit. But they can be just as effective with a double stopper. See what happens if declarer allows East to win the first trick, then takes the heart continuation.

Let's suppose, further, that declarer again makes the wrong guess and forces out the ace of spades. As the cards lie, East has no more hearts, so declarer can later drive out the ace of spades and hold his losers to one heart and the two aces. And if East does have a heart, the suit will break 4-3 and declarer loses only two hearts and the two aces.

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Mandela reassures business community

## ANC attacks U.K. for lifting sanctions

LUSAKA, Zambia (Agencies) — The African National Congress (ANC) accused the British government Wednesday of breaking its word on economic sanctions against South Africa.

By lifting a ban on investment in South Africa, Britain violated sanctions agreements of the United Nations, the Commonwealth and the European Community (EC) that it once pledged to honour, said ANC information chief Pallo Jordan.

"The British government has gone back on its word," Jordan told reporters at the ANC's external headquarters in Lusaka.

Britain announced Tuesday it was ending the investment ban to encourage reform by South Africa's President F.W. de Klerk.

Jordan said the British move was part of a pattern set by Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher favouring South Africa's white minority government.

"She has been quite prepared to be out of step with the rest of the world in her anxiety to accommodate the Pretoria regime," said the head of the guerrilla-backed organisation's Information Department.

He said Britain was party to international agreements that specified there would be no easing of trade and investment boycotts until irreversible change occurred in South Africa to end the apartheid system of racial separation.

On Feb. 2 de Klerk announced the legalisation of the ANC and

other opposition groups as part of a reform programme that also saw the release of veteran black nationalist Nelson Mandela after 27 years in prison in South Africa.

"We don't think by any stretch of the imagination the measures announced by de Klerk are irreversible," Jordan said.

He said the ANC was appealing to British business interests not to take advantage of the lifting of the investment ban.

The ANC has repeatedly said Thatcher's opposition to sanctions risked delaying change in South Africa by reducing pressure on the Pretoria government.

Britain has argued that economic sanctions hurt South Africa's black majority the most and de Klerk should be rewarded for reforms introduced so far.

Meanwhile, Harry Oppenheimer, one of South Africa's most influential businessmen, was quoted Wednesday as saying he did not think economic sanctions played the crucial role in moves to end apartheid.

"In a general sense, external pressures played a role. But I doubt sincerely if the economic aspect of this pressure was the determining factor," he said in an interview with the Paris daily *Le*

Figaro.

Oppenheimer, retired chairman of the Anglo American and De Beers Mining Dynasty, also discounted the impact of the withdrawal of several foreign companies from South Africa in protest against apartheid.

"The only thing that had an impact was the interruption of normal banking relations with the outside world," he said.

Foreign banks froze credit to Pretoria after former President P.W. Botha dashed hopes of rapid reform and political violence increased in South Africa.

Oppenheimer, a long-standing opponent of apartheid, said Mandela's release showed the Pretoria government "had abandoned the idea that South Africa belonged exclusively to whites."

In his assessment, the pressure that really touched the average white South African was the international sporting boycott of the country.

He said South Africa's overall paria status in the world has also been very important. "Here, like anywhere else, people like to stand still while the various parties get their act together," he said.

Mandela also said other nations must continue sanctions against South Africa to force the end of apartheid. "What we set out to achieve, we are far from achieving and there is nothing that has happened that has required us to review this decision," he said.

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